

DARIUS W. GEER, B.A., '35, M.A.
Lyons, New York. Student, Union College, 1834-'35. Lawyer, Lyons.
Died, Lyons, N. Y., April 13, 1887.

From: Kappa Alpha in U. C.
1825-1913

112 Darius Webb Geer, B.A., '35; M.A.
Born, Pleasant Mount (now Centreville),
Wayne Co., Pa., April 29, 1811. Geneva
(now Hobart) College, 1825-'26, and 1832-
'34; Academy of Geneva, 1831-'32; Union
College, 1834. Studied law, 1834-'38.
Lawyer, Phelps, Ontario Co., (now
Lyonstown, Wayne Co.) N. Y. Died,
Lyons, N. Y., April 13, 1887.

Kappa Alpha cat. 1941

Darius Webb Geer, '35

Parents: Levi and Fannia (Pude) Geer.

Born: Pleasant Mount (now Centerville)
Wayne Co., Pa.; April 29th, 1811.

Moved to Lyons town (then Phelps, Ontario Co.,)
now Wayne Co., N. Y. in April 1817.

Entered Geneva College, the first year it was
a chartered College in 1825-26. Stayed one year then
worked and taught school till 1830 or 1831, when
he studied for a year at the Academy of Geneva
and then in 1832 reentered Geneva College for three
years. In May 1834 entered Union College, and
"having been associated with the Senior Class of
1834 from May to the latter part of July, was per-
mitted to graduate". "In the year 1835, I received
my degree of A.B.

Entered immediately upon the study of Law
and licensed and admitted to practice Law in New
York City in the 1838. Began practice of Law in
Phelps, Ontario Co., 1839, and moved office to Lyons town
in 1841, where he subsequently lived.

From Questionnaire filled out by Mr.
Geer, April 21, 1855

1835

Apr. 28, 1853,

To *Darius W. Geer*,
 of the Class that graduated at Union College, in the year 1835.
 (or, if deceased, to the friend or relative who knew him best :) "*Comme vous portez vous?*"

SIR,—

It is the aim of the subscriber, in collecting the information asked for by the following questions, to obtain materials for a concise Biographical Catalogue of the Trustees, Presidents, Professors and Tutors of Union College;—of those who have received Honorary Degrees from it, and of all who have ever entered that Institution, whether Graduates or not.

That such a work would be interesting and useful to the Alumni, will not be denied; but whether it be practicable, will depend chiefly upon the ready aid which they shall impart. This circular will be sent to every Graduate whose residence is known, (or, if deceased, to some near connection,) and it is confidently expected that no one will neglect to return it in due time, with as full information as circumstances will allow:—some of the questions, indeed, it may not be possible to answer with certainty; others not at all: still, it is hoped that no important facts will be withheld because of their fewness.

Death has removed the twenty-four original Trustees, the first three Presidents, the early Professors and Tutors, and from eight hundred to one thousand of the Alumni of the College. Doubtless their friends and descendants will cheerfully contribute such information as may be necessary to illustrate the lives and services of the departed.

The subscriber desires every aid that may help to throw light upon the personal history of those concerned:—Obituary Notices; Biographical Sketches, Epitaphs, Funeral Sermons, Newspaper Notices of election to important offices or stations, Business Cards and Advertisements; also, copies of their Literary Works, Addresses, Sermons, Essays, Newspapers, engraved Portraits, &c.; all of which will be deposited and preserved in an Alcove of the College Library, to be set apart for "Graduates' Works."

He also requests that all future changes affecting the answers which shall be given, be made known to him from time to time:—especially the deaths of Graduates, and that the usual obituary notices or funeral sermons published on such occasions, be sent with the announcements, as it is his purpose to publish these deaths hereafter once a year.

JONATHAN PEARSON, *Librarian.*

UNION COLLEGE,
 SCHENECTADY, N. Y. }

SPECIMENS OF BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCHES FOR THE PROPOSED CATALOGUE.

John Glidden Brown was born in Quinipeck, N. Y., May 2, 1800; parents, James and Elizabeth (Glidden) Brown, who moved to Epsom, N. Y., in 1806. He was prepared for College at Helderbergh High School, under the instruction of Rev. Moses Johnson, and entered Union College Jan. 1817. He studied law with Hon. Septimus H. Smith, of Great Falls; was admitted to the bar in 1821; and commenced the practice of law in Albany, with James S. Van Hoesen, Esq. In 1830 he moved to New-York City, which, thereafter, became his residence. He was Member of N. Y. Assembly 1832-5; State Senator 1836-8; Member of Congress 1839-41; and Judge of the Superior Court 1842-6. He died June 30, 1849, of cholera, aged 49 years. Besides occasional speeches, orations and opinions, he wrote a work on constitutional law, and edited the N. Y. State Papers. He received the Degree of L. L. D. from Hamilton College in 1846.

Joseph Henshaw Luther was born in Hanover, Mass., June 1, 1798; parents, Joseph and Madeline (Henshaw) Luther; prepared for College at Yorkville Academy, John Almy, Esq., Principal; and entered Union College Sept. 1814. He taught, 1818-20, in East Philadelphia, (Penn.) High School; graduated at Princeton Theological Seminary in 1823; and was ordained Sept. 25, 1823, at Marbletown, N. Y.; and was Pastor of the Presbyterian Church till 1825. He was Pastor of the 1st Congregational Church of Haselton, Conn., 1825-30; Professor of Rhetoric in Erie College 1831-40; retired on account of ill health, and now resides in Philadelphia, Pa. He has published six sermons on various occasions; a series of lectures on Rhetoric and Belles Lettres, and the "Communicant's Companion." He received the Degree of D. D. from the Hudson University in 1842.

Thomas Pennington Radway was born Feb. 23, 1778, in Benton, N. Y.; parents, John Harmony and Mary (Pennington) Radway; was prepared for College at High Holme School, Rev. Hanover Kelton, Principal; entered Union College Sept. 1795; taught a few months in Suncook, Mass., in 1799; studied medicine with Dr. Jonas Physic and Dr. Abram Potecar, of Camermile; attended medical lectures at the College of Surgeons and Physicians, and was admitted to, and commenced the practice of medicine in La Rhine, in 1806. He was Surgeon in the Army 1813-15, and returned to practice at Oldbury in 1815, where he has since resided. He lectured in the Fairhaven Medical School on Anatomy and Physiology, 1830-5, and has published several articles in the New-York Medical Review, and two larger works on the "Functions of the Brain," and on "Gunshot Wounds."

- N. B. 1. Let the answers to the following questions be as full and *authentic* as possible; but when doubtful let them be marked thus (?).
 2. When the person is deceased let some near relative or friend fill out the blanks to the best of his knowledge; if he have but *one fact*, let that be sent.
 3. Let as much time be taken as may be found necessary for this purpose, and no more.
 4. In case this sheet be not sufficient to contain all the facts to be sent, add another of the *same size*, if possible, leaving an inner margin of not less than one inch for binding.
 5. In cases where no answers to this circular shall be returned, the editor will be obliged to publish such names without any biographical notices, or to rely upon information, gathered from other sources, and, therefore, not always *authentic*.

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INFORMATION REQUIRED FOR THE FOREGOING SKETCHES.

I. Name. *Darius Webb Geer,*

[Let this be written plainly and the middle names in full.]

II. Names of both Parents; thus:— *Levi and Lavinia (Russ) Geer,*
[John and Elizabeth (Smith) Johnson.]

III. Birth Place. *Pleasant Mount (now Centerville) Wayne Co. Pa.* Birth Day and Year. *29th April 1811.*

IV. Various residences and dates; thus:— *Moved to Lyonsville, then Phelps Ontario Co., now Wayne Co. N. York in*
[Pittsfield, Mass., 1814-24; Albany, N. Y., 1824-30; New-York City, 1830-54.]
month of April in Year 1817. Live at same town now.

V. At what Academy or Academies prepared for College, with Principals and dates; thus:— *Darius W. Geer Entered Gen*
[Albany Academy, Benjamin Allen, L. L. D., 1815-17.] *era College the first Year it was a Chartered College in the*
Years 1825-1826. Doctor Samuel McDonald Principal, Horace Webster L. L. D. Professor of

Mathematics, The names of the other Prof's and Tutors will be found enrolled among literatures of those
times. After attending College one Year, I left and was employed at different times as a clerk in Dry Goods Store, Academy,
at Lyons taught by Tobias Ostrander, at Teaching Common School, Gardening &c etc. until the Year 1831.

VI. At what College he graduated, and when. *In the Year 1830 or 31. Entered the Academy at Geneva and contin*
ued the Latin which I commenced with the design of being a Classical Scholar.

Entered College again at Geneva in 1832, on "English Course" which is peculiar to that institution, and

VII. The occupation he followed after leaving college before studying his profession; thus:—

[Teaching, Washington, D. C., 1847-48, or Merchant's Clerk, New-York City, 1849-51.] *I learned the French and German Lan*
guages besides, under the instruction of General H. L. T. Doucoudray Holstein, Prof. Mod. Law. Gen Col
After having been in College three Years more, making in all four Years at Geneva besides the time spent
in the Academies at Lyons and Geneva - did in 1834 (May) enter Union College by paying twenty dol.

lar Matriculation Fee, Having been associated with the Senior Class of 1834 from May to the latter
part of July, I was permitted to graduate

VIII. The profession he studied; where; with whom; when; thus:— *part of July, I was permitted to graduate*
[Theology at Princeton Theological Seminary, 1822-5 or Law in Albany, N. Y., with Hon. Harmanus Bleecker, 1840-2.]

a University Student. In the Year 1835 - twenty Years ago - I received my Degree of A. B.
Baccalaureate or Bachelorship. Never have received a Diploma. Entered immedi

ately upon the study of the Law. Commenced reading Law in the Office of Graham Chapman
afterwards a Member of Congress and finished my time of Clerkship required by Law. with the

IX. Where he has practised his profession, with dates; and in case he be a clergyman, mention the denomination to which he belongs;
thus:—

[Eps., Somerville, N. J., 1827-30; Pres., Albany, N. Y., 1830-5; New-York City, 1835-54.] *Now Bower Whiting of Geneva,*

I was admitted to Practice Law, by receiving a license at the May Term of the Supreme
Court held at the City Hall in the City of New York in the Year 1838. Old Constitution.

Began to practice my Profession at Vienna (now Phelps, Ontario Co. N. Y.) in Year of our Lord 1839. Left
I think in the Fall of 1841 and opened an office at Alloway, Lyonsville, where I have been domiciled, i.e.

X. The other occupations he has followed; when and where; thus:— *near Lyons on the North, and Alloway on or at the South*
[Merchant, Rochester, N. Y., 1829-35; or Farmer, Genesee, N. Y., 1835-54; or Manufacturer, Schoharie, N. Y., 1841-48; or Professor, teacher, banker, editor, &c.]

The other occupations I have followed in connexion with the Profession have been many
but chiefly Agriculture and Gardening on my Father's Possessions or places. Read Greek & Latin
and reviewed all collegiate Studies, But many of those Studies as they have been connected with

the Literature of the times, and at the Arts and Sciences are contained in new editions of books. not
used in the Colleges. I am not much behind in regard to the Politics of the day.

At my Collegiate Course varies some in its modus operandi, from that of other graduates

I wish to have it distinctly understood that I never have pretended to be anybody above mediocrity
in Scholarship, when compared with many of my honorable colleagues or graduates. - My
Practice of the Law has been very limited indeed, and I have at times been inclined to attribute it
to the fact that I had omitted to obtain a Diploma with its attendant honours from Union College,
such an article being in the minds of many a sine qua non in the line of honor and personal rep-
grandisement.

XI. The important offices he has held, with dates; thus:—

[Surrogate of Jefferson Co., N. Y., 1839-41 and 1845-7; Member of Congress, 21st district, N. Y., 1841-43; Member of Assembly, of N. Y., 1821-4, &c., &c.]

Was elected an Inspector of Common Schools for the Town of Arcadia, in Wayne Co. N. Y.
Did hold the Office one Year or thereabouts and then removed to Lyons to continue the
reading of the Law.

XII. The Literary or Scientific Works he has written or edited.

[Copies are solicited for the "Graduates Alcove" in College Library.]

Never have edited or written any literary or sci-
entific works. Have only now and then contributed a piece to the News-papers of the day, &
those I am sorry to say went under a fictitious signature.

XIII. The names of his relatives who graduated at Union College.

I may have had some relatives who graduated
at Union College. However I do not remember that I have made any inquiries on the score
of relationship.

XIV. The literary, professional, or honorary titles he received; from whence, with dates; thus:—

[M. D., from Albany Medical College 1845; or LL. D., Amherst College, 1850, &c.]

Received the degree of
A. B. Bachelor of Arts. I never have applied for A. M. Artium Magister
and I am not apprized of its ever having been conferred, although the Degree is usually
conferred as a matter of course three years after the Bachelorship. Whether I shall ever obtain
the honorary Degree of LL. D. is a question I believe has not yet been agitated.

XV. Is there an engraved portrait of him? *No engraved Portrait of me. There is one on canvas with oil*
[One or two copies, together with his autograph, are solicited for College Library.] *paints by an Artist from Albany which*
cost eight dollars. An elegant Gilt Frame - got up at Auburn - encloses it. The Frame

XVI. The date, circumstances, and place of his death. *cost seven dollars. Frame one Picture at*
[Send any printed notice, biographical sketch, funeral sermon, &c. In many instances more space will be required to answer this and the three following
questions, in which case add an additional sheet.]

first cost fifteen Dollars, besides some allowance for the expense of getting them. It
is now in pretty good keeping, and I do not think it worth while to make any other
disposition of the same.

Alloway Lyonsville Wayne Co. N. Y. April 23, 1855.

XVII. General information respecting character, services, success, interesting passages and events in his life, &c. My Parents were born in the Years 1775 and 1776. in the State of Connecticut. My Father was born at Groton in Windham Co. and my Mother at Norwich or near that place on the Thames New-London County.

My Grand Father Geer signalized himself in the Old French and English war. He was wounded in Battle. And from the serious effects of which he never fully recovered. My other Grand Father did some service in the Revolution as I have been verbally informed, by way of supplying provisions for some portion of the Army as teamster. From the State of Connecticut they moved to Mount Pleasant Wayne County in the State of Pennsylvania. having crossed the Connecticut River at XVIII. Some account of his pedigree and family; its original seat in this or the old country, &c., &c.

Wartford, and the Hudson River at Newburgh &c &c - - -

It has not been my good fortune to be associated with any of the graduates of Union College and consequently I cannot give you much information under the present head.

Under the circumstances, I may as well here remark, that all of the above information is very reluctantly communicated. chiefly on account of the serious consequences which are very apt to follow any correspondence with the highest intelligences. It is certainly true that Union College and its glorious prospects in the future, imposes a responsibility upon each and every of those persons who claim the honor of being graduates -

XIX. List of such graduates as may not be widely known; their residences, professions, dates of deaths, &c.; the name and residence, also, of some near friend of the deceased, that further information may be sought for; thus:—

[John Orton Smith, Banker, Chicopee, Mass., died 1848. His brother, Joseph H. Smith, resides in Springfield, Mass.]

I cannot attempt here any eulogium on our institution whose fame, like the Universe is unbounded, and perhaps like the Universe will not be very easily dissolved. I am very happy to have the privilege of corresponding with you on any literary subjects which may present themselves for the consideration of the learned or the just. I have always considered Union College one of the best of literary institutions and you will not find me backward to give any information which has a just, reasonable, or equitable tendency to promote our mutual happiness and well-being.

I am sir yours very Respectfully- Darius W. Geer.

To Jonathan Pearson.

Librarian in Union College.

Darius Webb Geer A.B. 1835

Darius Webb Geer

1835
H.B.